RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOCUMENTING RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS

To improve the accuracy and breadth of Wyoming's ornithological record, the Wyoming Bird Records Committee offers the following recommendations to assist with documentation of bird sightings.

- 1. Acceptable documentation must <u>eliminate all similar species</u>. Remember that immatures or juveniles of one species can be very similar to adults of another species. Examples that might cause confusion are gulls, jaegers, sparrows, and longspurs. Species that exhibit multiple color morphs can also be problematic.
- 2. Study and learn bird topography. Most field guides provide a schematic of avian body parts and feather groups. Specialized identification guides also provide specific structural and anatomical detail. A thorough grasp of this subject will heighten your general birding skill and facilitate accurate, detailed documentation.
- 3. Take meticulous and thorough field notes <u>during or immediately after the observation</u>. Alternatively, you can also use an audio recorder or digital camera to capture identification details. If the bird is cooperative, write your notes during the observation period. Try not to consult your field guide while you are writing to avoid predisposing your identification. <u>Do not rely on memory to document a rare or unusual bird</u>.
- 4. A good physical description of the bird is most crucial and you should include everything you observe. Include all details concerning <u>plumage</u>, <u>shape</u>, <u>relative size</u>, <u>eyes</u>, <u>legs</u>, <u>and bill</u>. Note the colors, including color distribution, color density, and color contrast between different feather groups. It is helpful to consider proportional details, i.e., bill length compared to head width, tail length as a proportion of body length, and length of primary projection compared to tail length. Record plumage characteristics such as degree of wear or signs of molt. When describing size, try to compare nearby known species or some other object of known dimensions. Avoid trying to estimate size in actual units (inches, feet) since this is very subjective.
- 5. Observe and record the subject bird's behavior. While behavior is seldom diagnostic by itself, in combination with other details, it is often conclusive. One of the few documented observations of the Connecticut Warbler in Wyoming was accepted by the WBRC, in part, because it was observed walking, not hopping.
- 6. If possible, take photographs. Take a number of shots to capture a complete portrait. The advent of digital photography has greatly increased the number of records the WBRC receives with photographs, which greatly helps our work. However, a photograph should be accompanied by a written description, if possible, as one photograph will likely not display all the diagnostic features.
- 7. If you do not have a camera, consider making a sketch. You do not need the talent of Rembrandt or Audubon to draw a convincing and diagnostic sketch. Utilize your knowledge of bird topography and you will be surprised how well you do. Draw this sketch in the field during the observation. Do not rely on memory.
- 8. Vocalizations can be extremely important for identification, especially for some groups such as flycatchers. <u>Describe what you hear while you are listening</u>. Better yet, record the bird, even if you do not have professional recording equipment. A hand-held recorder or cellular phone with a built in microphone or a digital camera with a video recording feature can provide reliable results. There are many excellent collections of bird songs and calls that can prepare birders for the unexpected find by ear alone.
- 9. Specimens that can be identified and reposited at the University of Wyoming Zoological Museum are still the most convincing evidence of an occurrence. If you encounter a dead rare or unusual bird in the field, please deliver the specimen to an appropriate authority, e.g. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Park Service, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel. Note the exact date and location of the discovery. Freeze the specimen if delivery is to be delayed. Always use gloves or a plastic bag to pick up dead birds, and double-bag them with a note inside that includes the date and location and your contact information.
- 10. For questions about the Wyoming Bird Records Committee or clarification of these recommendations, please contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Nongame Bird Biologist at the Lander Regional Office, 260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY 82520; 307-332-2688; Andrea. Orabona@wyo.gov.

DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED FOR ALL SIGHTINGS (AS) OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES

Acorn Woodpecker American Black Duck American Woodcock Ancient Murrelet Anna's Hummingbird

Arctic Tern Baird's Sparrow Baltimore Oriole Band-tailed Pigeon

Barn Owl Barred Owl

Bay-breasted Warbler

Black Rail Black Scoter Black Swift Black Vulture

Blackburnian Warbler
Black-headed Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-throated Sparrow
Blue-headed Vireo

Blue-winged Warbler Brambling Brant

Brown Pelican

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Canada Warbler

Canyon Towhee Cape May Warbler Carolina Wren Cassin's Sparrow¹ Cassin's Vireo Common Gallinule

Connecticut Warbler Crested Caracara Eastern Meadowlark Eastern Phoebe Eastern Wood-Pewee Eurasian Wigeon Field Sparrow Flammulated Owl

Garganey Glaucous Gull

Glaucous-winged Gull

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Glossy Ibis

Golden-crowned Sparrow Golden-winged Warbler

Gray Vireo

Gray-cheeked Thrush Great Black-backed Gull Great Crested Flycatcher Greater Prairie-Chicken

Green Heron
Gyrfalcon
Harris's Hawk
Heermann's Gull
Hepatic Tanager
Hermit Warbler
Hoary Redpoll
Hooded Warbler
Hudsonian Godwit
Iceland Gull
Kentucky Warbler

Laughing Gull Lawrence's Goldfinch Le Conte's Sparrow

Least Bittern Least Tern

Lesser Black-backed Gull² Lesser Frigatebird Lesser Nighthawk

Little Blue Heron

Long-billed Murrelet Long-tailed Jaeger

Magnificent Hummingbird

Mew Gull Mississippi Kite Mottled Duck Mourning Warbler Mute Swan

Nelson's Sparrow Northern Bobwhite Northern Cardinal Northern Hawk Owl

Pacific Wren
Painted Bunting
Palm Warbler
Parasitic Jaeger
Philadelphia Vireo
Pileated Woodpecker

Pine Warbler
Piping Plover
Pomarine Jaeger
Prairie Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler

Purple Finch
Purple Gallinule
Purple Martin
Red Knot
Red Phalarope

Red-bellied Woodpecker Red-faced Warbler Red-necked Grebe Red-shouldered Hawk Red-throated Loon

Ross's Gull

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Rusty Blackbird Scarlet Tanager

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Scott's Oriole Sedge Wren

Short-billed Dowitcher Smith's Longspur Snowy Owl Snowy Plover Sprague's Pipit Streaked Shearwater Thayer's Gull

Thayer's Gull Tricolored Heron Tufted Duck Varied Thrush Vaux's Swift

Vermilion Flycatcher Western Bluebird Western Screech-Owl

White Ibis

White-eyed Vireo

White-headed Woodpecker

White-tailed Kite
White-tailed Ptarmigan
Whooper Swan
Whooping Crane
Winter Wren
Wood Stork
Wood Thrush
Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow Grosbeak

Yellow Rail Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Yellow-billed Loon

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-throated Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo Yellow-throated Warbler

¹ Except confirmed breeding in Torrington area

² Except L19 & L27

DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED FOR THE <u>FIRST LATILONG SIGHTINGS</u> (FL) AND ALL NESTING OBSERVATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES

American Bittern

American Golden-Plover Ash-throated Flycatcher

Bewick's Wren

Black-and-white Warbler Black-backed Woodpecker

Black-billed Cuckoo

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler

Bobolink Boreal Owl

Broad-winged Hawk Brown-capped Rosy-Finch

Bushtit

Cackling Goose Cassin's Kingbird Cattle Egret

Chestnut-collared Longspur Chestnut-sided Warbler

Chimney Swift
Common Tern
Dickcissel
Dunlin

Eastern Bluebird
Eastern Screech-Owl
Gray Flycatcher

Great Egret Greater Scaup

Greater White-fronted Goose

Great-tailed Grackle Great-tailed Grackle Hammond's Flycatcher

Indigo Bunting
Juniper Titmouse
Least Flycatcher
Lesser Goldfinch
Long-tailed Duck
Magnolia Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Northern Pygmy-Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

Orchard Oriole
Pacific Loon
Peregrine Falcon

Red-headed Woodpecker Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Ross's Goose
Ruddy Turnstone
Sabine's Gull
Summer Tanager
Surf Scoter
Swamp Sparrow
Tennessee Warbler
Trumpeter Swan
Upland Sandpiper
Virginia's Warbler
Western Scrub-Jay

Whimbrel

White-rumped Sandpiper White-winged Crossbill White-winged Dove White-winged Scoter Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Rare and Unusual Bird Sighting Form WYOMING BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 260 BUENA VISTA, LANDER, WY 82520



The Wyoming Bird Records Committee sincerely thanks all observers for submitting this form to help keep Wyoming's bird records up-to-date and accurate. It is not necessary to complete every block if

Some details are id	icking, but piease provide		-	iotographis, ii avaliable.	
Common Name: Red-be	ellied Woodpecker		Specific location of observation: Wyoming Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne, WY		
Scientific Name: Melane	erpes carolinus				
Observation Date: 21-20	6 August 2006				
Observation Time: morr	ning	UTM E 57571	6 UTM N 4540789	Datum NAD83 Zone 13T	
Length of Observation:	several minutes each day	Latitude/Longi	tude WGS84 41.1278	36 N -104.6198 W	
Distance from Bird: clos	est at 10 meters	T N/R	W / Sec. / 1/4 S		
Light Conditions: varied		Weather at tim	e of observation: varied	d	
Optical Equipment: Zeis	s 7x42 binoculars				
Notes made: during sigh	nting Y from memory	Prior weather a	and number of days sind	ce last change: unknown	
Date report prepared: 1	1 December 2006				
Give a general description	on of the bird seen and any other	er details of interest rela	ating to the observation.		
Medium-sized woodpeck	ker with black and white barred	back and wings; gray u	inderparts; red cap; and	black, tapered, stout bill.	
SEX	AGE	PLUMAGE		PHOTO/AUDIO/DRAWING	
Male:	Adult: Y	Breeding: Y	Juvenal:	Enclosed: Y	
Female: 1	Juvenile/Immature:	Winter:	Dark Morph:	Available:	
Unknown:	2-3 year bird:	Eclipse:	Light Morph:	Please submit a copy of	
Total Number: 1	Unknown:	Other:		your field drawings.	
	e include in the sections below o		ody parts actually observ	ved during the sighting.	
BILL: Entirely black, me	dium length, and tapered to a s	harp point.			
HEAD: Mostly gray (san	ne color as the underparts) on t	hroat chin sides of he	ad to above the eyes, as	nd forehead Diffuse red just	
	dly red on the crown and nape.		ad to above the eyes, an	na foronoud. Dinaco roa just	
NECK: Gray on the fron	t and sides, red from the crown	/nape extending onto th	ne lower back and neck.		
LIDDEDDADTS: Extens	ively barred black and white cro	ess the mantle and wine	10.		
OFFERFARIS. EXCENS	ively barred black and while cro	os the mantle and Wing	ys.		
UNDERPARTS: Entirely	pale gray with some faint blac	k edging to the underta	il coverts.		
Please do not write bel	low here; for WBRC use only.		· ·	Form updated March 2016	

Record Categor Number	Latilong	Date Received
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WINGS: Same as the mantle – barred black			·
TAIL: Barred black and white, long with at le pointed.	east the outermost feather	's longer than the others	more extensively black, and sharply
LEGS & FEET: Grayish in color. Not observ	ved well.		
List similar species and describe how or why	you eliminated them.		
No other woodpecker species has a combina	ation of black and white ba	arred back and wings, gr	ay underparts, and red crown/nape.
Describe the behavior of this bird and the into	eraction with others.		
Actively calling on most days. Most often see	en perched on large bran	ches of cottonwood trees	S.
What is the habitat at this location?			
Ranch with ornamental plantings. Mostly see	en in an avenue of cotton	wood trees bordering the	e entrance road.
If heard, describe the bird's song or vocalizat	tions. Re	eporter's name, address,	phone number, and e-mail address.
Single noted loud "queer".			
How many years have you birded?		probarating about ora	he are not reporting congretely
25 years		orroborating observers w	ho are not reporting separately.
•			
Have you observed this species before?	a a musa di it		
I grew up with this species in Indiana and observersively in the southern U.S. and eastern			
Please do not write below here; for WBRC	C use only.		Form updated March 2016
Record Number	Latilong	Atlas Update	Sighting Entered in WGFD WOS Database





Rare and Unusual Bird Sighting Form WYOMING BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 260 BUENA VISTA, LANDER, WY 82520

The Wyoming Bird Records Committee <u>sincerely thanks</u> all observers for submitting this form to help keep Wyoming's bird records up-to-date and accurate. It is not necessary to complete every block if some details are lacking, but please provide all the details you can and attach photographs, if available.

	oming, but pict	ise provide (an are ac	itano y o a	ourr arra	uttu	on photo	grupiis,	n avana	DIC.
Common Name:			Specific	c location o	of observation	n:				
Scientific Name:										
Observation Date:										
Observation Time:			UTM E		UTM N_		D	atum	Zone_	T
Length of Observation:			Latitud	e0		_″N	Longitude	0		″W
Distance from Bird:			T	_N R	W Sec		¼ Sec	1/4	¼ Sec	
Light Conditions:			Weath	er at time o	of observation	on:				
Optical Equipment:										
Notes made: during sigh	nting from	memory	Prior w	eather and	number of	days	since last	change:		
Date report prepared										
Give a general description	n of the bird seen	and any other	details of i	nterest rela	ating to the	obser	vation.			
SEX	AGE		PLUMAGE					PHOTO/AL	IDIO/DRA	WING
Male:	Adult:		Breeding:		Juvenal:			Enclosed:	2210/2101	
Female:	Juvenile/Immatu		Winter:		Dark Mor	ph:		Available:		
Unknown:	2-3 year bird:		Eclipse:		Light Mo	rph:		Please sub		of of
Total Number: If possible, please	Unknown:		Other:	cnocific ha	dy parte ac	tually		your field o		
BILL:	Thichade in the sec	cions below de	laiis oi tiie	<i>ърестс во</i>	uy parts act	uaiiy	observed	uuring trie	signang.	
HEAD:										
NECK:										
UPPERPARTS:										
UNDERPARTS:										
Please do not write bel	ow here; for WBI	RC use only					Fo	orm updat	ed March	2016
Record		Category		Latilon	ıg	[Date			

Received

Number

WINGS:				
TAIL:				
LEGS & FEET:				
2230 4. 22				
List similar species and describe how or wh	hy you eliminated them.			
·				
Describe the behavior of this bird and the i	nteraction with others.			
What is the habitat at this location?				
If heard, describe the bird's song or vocaliz	zations	Por	ortor's name address	nhone number, and a mail address
in realty, describe the bird's sorig or vocaliz	zations.	/c	Joiler's Hairie, address	, phone number, and e-mail address.
How many years have you birded?		201	roborating observors w	ho are not reporting separately.
now many years have you brideu!		JUI	Toborating observers w	nio are not reporting separatery.
Have you observed this species before?				
Please do not write below here; for WBI	RC use only			Form updated March 2016
Record	Category		Latilong	Date
Number				Received



Rare and Unusual Bird Sighting Form – Photographs Only WYOMING BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 260 BUENA VISTA, LANDER, WY 82520



The Wyoming Bird Records Committee <u>sincerely thanks</u> all observers for submitting this form and your photographs to help keep Wyoming's bird records up-to-date and accurate.

Common Name: Great Egret		Specific location of observation: Lake Terry, Cheyenne Country (
Scientific Name: Ardea alba			,	
Observation Date: 27 April 2015				
Legal Description:				
UTM E 512574	UTM N 4556747	Datum NAD 83	Zone 13	Т
Observer (name and contact information	ation): Pete Arnold			



Please do not write below here; for WBRC use only

Form updated March 2016

Record Number:		Cat	egory:	Latilong:	Date Received:	
	Atlas Update:		Sighti	ng Entered in WGFD	WOS Database:	

Rare and Unusual Bird Sighting Form – Photographs Only WYOMING BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 260 BUENA VISTA, LANDER, WY 82520

The Wyoming Bird Records Committee <u>sincerely thanks</u> all observers for submitting this form and your photographs to help keep Wyoming's bird records up-to-date and accurate.

Common Name:		Specific location of observation:		
Scientific Name:				
Observation Date:				
Legal Description:				
UTM E	UTM N	Datum	Zone	Т
Observer (name and contact informatio	n):			

Please do not write below here; for WBRC use only

Form updated March 2016

Record Number:		Category:		Latilong:	Date Received:	
	Atlas Update: Sighting		ing Entered in WGFD	WOS Database:		